

# Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015

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## STUDENT RETURNS TO HELP EARTHQUAKE HIT COUNTRY

SEE PAGE THREE



# POOR LEAGUE POSITION FOR OUR SPORTING TOWN

## SURVEY PUTS US 33RD OUT OF 48 OF THE COUNTRY'S TOWNS AND CITIES

By Nick Spoons  
Chief Reporter  
nick.spoons@jpress.co.uk

Northampton has been placed 33rd out of 48 sporting towns and cities in a new survey

Home of Northampton Saints, Northampton Town and Northants County Cricket Club, Northampton is the only town in the country to boast top flight teams in three major sports. Nearby Leicester, which also has three major teams, is a city.

The new survey by broadcaster ESPN and the universities of Gloucester and Bath, ranked towns and cities on 12 factors including value for money, success, atmosphere and transport links.

The survey had more than 5,000 respondents.

Northampton scored highest in the community category with 72 out of 100, which

looked at fans' satisfaction with club community involvement in their town or city.

Its lowest score was for sporting history with just five out of 100.

Other results included (all out of 100):

Value for money - 58; Participation - 55; Atmosphere - 44; Local talent - 40; Economic impact - 39; Club success - 27; Venues - 24; Transport accessibility - 18; Social - 15; Choice - 11. Overall, Manchester topped the table, beating London which came second and Glasgow, which came in third place.

Commenting on the research, Professor Andrew Parker from the University of Gloucestershire, said: "Manchester has definitely earned its selection as the ESPN Greatest Sporting City in the UK. Our research, over several months, gathered opinions from in-depth focus groups, followed by an online survey

of more than 5,000 sports fans across the UK, which was then cross-referenced with third party data from more than 100 different sources. It was thorough, and the results were very interesting."

Among cities that did not fare so well, Blackpool came last, behind Luton in 47th, Stoke-on-Trent in 46th and Bolton in 45th. Despite being the UK's "second city", Birmingham ranked in 17th place. There is also a northern dominance in the top ten, with six of the top ranked cities located in the north of the UK.

Steven Saunders, Senior Editor of ESPN.co.uk, said: "We set out to examine what really makes a great sporting city and we know that begins with fans. The factors they identified range from classic sporting themes, such as success and history, to more consumer-focused concerns, such as value for money and venues."



Northampton is the only town in the country with top flight teams in three major sports

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One of the shelters which Abhishek Bhutoria and his team helped to build

# University student takes emotional trip to Nepal

By PAUL LYNCH  
Reporter  
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**A University of Northampton student has spoken of returning to his home country to help those affected by the earthquake in Nepal.**

When the earthquake hit in April, Abhishek Bhutoria's first reaction was to go back and round up friends and family to primarily help with the relief effort.

He said: "I was in Ahmedabad, India preparing my portfolio for my PhD in Architecture and I was shocked by the news and images I was seeing on TV and through social media. My sister and I immediately got a train to Delhi and

flew straight back to Kathmandu – our first thoughts being what can we do to help those in our native country?"

Abhishek's team started off by supplying immediate relief materials to villages, depending on their individual needs. With support from various agencies, companies and the local community, they managed to distribute materials to 14 villages, primarily in the Sindhupalchowk, Kavre and Nuwakot region over 16 days.

Having recently completed an MSc in Integrated Urbanism from the University of Northampton, Abhishek decided to get involved in a building project with the aim of constructing 200 transitional shelters for those people who had lost their homes.

He said: "We visited the village of Bhotsipa in Sindhupalchowk, which is in one of the most severely affected areas, surveyed the damage and collected the required data. After a discussion with the team members and villagers, we decided to proceed with the building project.

"However this required a lot of funding so we contacted a number of groups and organisations. Initially we struggled, but where there is a will, there's a way and eventually we started receiving money from other sources."

The team was then able to start building the shelters around mid-May and despite having to take a week out due to a financial issues and a shortage of materials, they managed

to complete 110 shelters in just over two weeks. After unfortunately breaking his ankle, Abhishek had to take a step back from the groundwork, but by the end of June and with support from the villagers, 193 shelters had been successfully completed.

Abhishek said: "After we had completed our project, I felt that this was a great beginning for such a sad reality and we owe gratitude to the many people around the world for the magnitude of support we have received. The entire experience is truly hard to express in words.

"There was grief, sadness and tears but the uplifting thing was that I have never seen my country work at such a pace."



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# Free beer on Carlsberg

By PAUL LYNCH  
Reporter  
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**A video by Northampton-based brewers Carlsberg has captured the moment shocked airline passengers saw their luggage replaced - by free beer.**

The promotional stunt at London City Airport last week saw the baggage carousel laden with crates of the brew tagged with the invitation 'Take Me, I'm Yours'.

As passengers waited to collect their suitcases, secret filming captured their shock at the giveaway. The stunt was produced to celebrate the return of Carlsberg's well-known advertising strapline 'If Carlsberg did...'

Senior brand manager at the Northampton firm, Dharmesh Rana, said: "Waiting for your luggage when you get home from holiday is that defining moment when you know that your holiday is over, you go from the highs of being on holiday back to the reality of returning to work, that's why we decided to cheer up



Travellers at London City Airport got free beer while waiting for their bags.

returning holidaymakers with a crate of ice-cold Carlsberg.

"We hope our gift made the process of unpacking that little bit more bearable."

The cases viral follows a series of "If Carlsberg did" stunts commissioned by the brand this year, including a beer dispensing poster and a drone delivery service - which the company arranged as a stunt

with the Chronicle & Echo for April Fool's Day.

The secret camera footage from last week shows initial disbelief as tired travellers straight off the flight watch the crates of beer emerge.

Once it became clear they were a gift from Carlsberg the fliers accepted them before sharing their delight on social media.

**Mercury**

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The Innovation Centre will be officially opened by the University of Northampton next month.

# Uni to open £8.5m centre

**BY NICK SPOORS**  
Chief reporter  
nick.spoors@jpress.co.uk

The University of Northampton will be officially opening its new £8.5 million Innovation Centre next month.

The centre, which sits in the town's Enterprise Zone, has 42 flexible office units, a café and conference space, along with a range of business support services provided by

Northamptonshire Growth Hub and the university.

A spokesman said: "The Innovation Centre will be the natural home of businesses that benefit both people and the environment through being innovative and effective.

"Practising what it preaches, the Centre itself is run to deliver social impact and social innovation, with measurable social value.

"The University of Northampton has been internationally recognised for its

commitment to social innovation and entrepreneurship by being designated a 'Change-maker Campus' by Ashoka U – the global association of the world's leading universities supporting social entrepreneurs – and was the first in the UK to be awarded this honour," he added.

Terry Neville, chief operating officer at the University of Northampton, said: "The Innovation Centre is a natural development for this University."

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# Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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# Watercolours show Abbey from 1860s

By PAUL LYNCH

Reporter  
[paul.lynych@jpress.co.uk](mailto:paul.lynych@jpress.co.uk)

Two watercolours painted in the 1860s of Delapre Abbey in Northampton have been discovered in a London gallery.

The paintings were contained in an album belonging to amateur artist, Caroline Vernon, who recorded her visits to country homes during Queen Victoria's reign with watercolours and sketches.

Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust community engagement officer, Vikki Pearson, said: “A visit to the London gallery that held the two albums led to the discovery of two watercolour paintings created when she visited Delapre in 1863. One shows the west front of the Abbey and another shows a view of the library which had been built in the early 1800s by the Bouverie family.

“This is particularly excit-



One of the watercolours by Caroline Vernon, showing the inside of Delapre Abbey in the 1860s.

ing as it is one of the few images we have for the interior of the abbey at that time,” she said. Chairman of the trust, Rod Giddins, said: “This is a thrilling discovery that is an exciting part of our journey to bring the history of the Abbey to life.

“We very much hope to discover further items that we

are able to bring home to Delapre and display in the future.”

The Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust has now purchased the two paintings and the intention is to use them to help inform the restoration works and to display them in the Abbey when it opens to the public in the summer of 2016.

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# Double act couple's wartime adventure

**T**hey were tap dancers, singers, stiltwalkers and rollerskaters, lifting the wartime gloom for hundreds of people a day. Husband and wife Fred and Frances Mawby travelled the country in their little green Ford 10 doing their bit but having a marvellous time.

They just couldn't tell a soul.

Until last week, that is, when the secret tunnels in the White Cliffs of Dover hit the national news and Northampton's Frances Mawby felt she could finally break her 70-year-plus silence about aspects of her remarkable war entertaining the troops.

"It all started", says the 96-year-old, "when my late husband and I won the four-day Chronicle and Echo variety act competition. It set us up as a duo they all wanted to see."

It set them up in fact for a contract with ENSA (Entertainers National Service Association) to entertain soldiers in various military bases across the British Isles and sometimes out to sea.

But it was no ordinary contract. "We signed the Official Secrets Act. I can't remember what it looked like, but I don't think we were bothered by it. It's something we had to do."

The locations they had to drive to included the aforementioned tunnels as well as minesweepers, secret structures built in the sea, and the middle of Dartmoor, where the troops were in a dire state of loneliness.

Once, at a Scottish hospital for RAF airmen, their audience lay badly-burned under



Double act: Husband and wife Fred and Frances Mawby.

sheets, watching the performance with the aid of mirrors held over their heads.

Frances said: "They were singing back to us and joining in while they were lying injured. It was heartbreaking."

Despite the harrowing and depressing sights, Frances says she would not change her wartime experience for anything.

She said "We worked so

hard that that's all we thought about at the time.

"But I have no regrets whatsoever - it was a great privilege. The soldiers were often very down and we were the ones who could pick them up again. It was the best part of my life."

The tunnels are one thing, but does she have any more ENSA secrets. "Yes," she says matter-of-factly, "I probably do."

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Crazy Hats has made another donation to Northampton General Hospital.

# Crazy Hat crew gives £30,000 to hospital

A fundraising appeal to refurbish the chemotherapy suite at Northampton General Hospital has reached quarter of a million pounds after a donation by cancer charity Crazy Hats.

The Northamptonshire charity, which raises money to improve breast cancer care in the county, presented a £30,000 cheque to the chemotherapy suite appeal, taking the total raised so far to £250,000.

Participants in the annual Crazy Hats walk at Wicksteed Park raised the latest

amount earlier this year and it has been earmarked to pay for the cost of refurbishing the treatment preparation room.

NGH Chief executive Dr Sonia Swart said: "We're very grateful to the Crazy Hats team for their tireless fundraising and all they do to help improve the experience of women undergoing and recovering from breast cancer treatment. Thanks to the inspirational leadership of Glennis Hooper and the dedication of her volunteers, thousands of local women have benefited from equipment and facilities that would otherwise not have

been available."

Currently divided into two rooms, doctors say the treatment preparation area does not make the best use of space.

The new design will see individual work stations for nurses so they can work more effectively and at the correct height. The storage and computer areas are also designed to maximise the working space.

Glennis Hooper, Crazy Hats' executive fundraiser, said: "This brings the total we have given to the hospital to over £850,000 in the past 13 years."

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# SPORT

## Moloney close to a comeback

### Brendan bidding to be fit for Cobblers' game at Bristol Rovers

#### FOOTBALL

**Cobblers right-back Brendan Moloney faces a race against time to be fit for the Sky Bet League Two opener at Bristol Rovers on Saturday afternoon.**

Moloney sustained a knee injury during the closing stages of last season and it was decided that he would need an operation after the first pre-season outing, against Sileby Rangers in July.

It irked Cobblers boss Chris Wilder, who says the club were given some bad advice about how to handle the 26 year-old's injury following the initial incident against Burton Albion.

Moloney's progress is on track having completed four weeks of rehab, but is it not yet known whether he will return in time for the league curtain-raiser this weekend.

"It could be a case of the game coming just too soon, but we haven't given up hope yet," he said. "I really hope to be involved but we'll just have to see day by day how the recovery progresses.

"We'll step up my routine and I'm sure I won't be too far away from a return now.

"You don't want to rush coming back after an injury as

that could have a longer term effect and you'll then have another setback, so we'll take it day by day and see how it develops."

Moloney has flourished at Sixfields in his 23 appearances to date. Having initially signed on a loan deal from Yeovil in January, he soon put pen to paper on a permanent deal.

Josh Lelan was signed this summer from Derby County as cover for ex-Nottingham Forest defender, and he looks set to get the nod if Moloney is absent.

Moloney has praised the form of his rival for the right-back slot after citing the importance of having strong competition for places throughout the Cobblers squad this season.

"There's good competition for places here," Moloney said. "He (Lelan) has come in and done well while I've been out injured and he's a good young player.

"You need that in the squad and need the competition all over the pitch to have a successful side, and I think we have that now.

"All the boys that have signed will add great quality and depth to the team. It's up to us to play well each week and keep our place in the side."



**COMEBACK TRAIL** Brendan Moloney is closing in on a return from injury as Cobblers prepare to kick-off the new campaign

PICTURE: SHARON LUCEY

## Ripley's delighted as Steelbacks stay alive

**DAVID RIPLEY is delighted the Northants Steelbacks' final two group fixtures in the Royal London One-Day Cup will not be dead rubbers.**

Ripley had said following Friday's defeat at Derbyshire Falcons that the games against Worcestershire Rapids and Somerset were must-win.

And his team have delivered, with Monday's four-wicket success against Somerset coming hot on the heels of the memorable

#### CRICKET

**21-run triumph against the Rapids at New Road on Sunday.**

Those wins' have seen the Steelbacks move right into contention in Group A ahead of their final two group games in two weeks' time.

And Ripley admitted he was delighted that those matches, against Gloucestershire and Yorkshire, will not be meaningless.

"These two games were must win after the Derby game and we did, not in a straightforward manner but we've got our two wins," the Northants head coach said.

"I thought we controlled the game pretty well on Monday. I guess it would have been nice for one of the guys who was in to get us over the line a bit earlier but it's still a good win.

"We've under-clubbed with the bat, little individual performances here and there, but as a collective

we've not come up with the goods and that partnership between David (Willey) and Ben (Duckett) meant we were in a very comfortable position.

"Sunday's win obviously did a lot for the spirit in the camp and it's good to go into a little break knowing we're somewhat in contention when we come back to those two games."

David Willey was the star of the show, smashing 91 after being moved up to open the batting for the first

time in the competition this season, in place of Richard Levi.

The move paid instant dividends, and after seeing his side struggle with the bat for much of their opening five games, Ripley was delighted to see the change pay off.

"We talked about making a little change at the top, maybe it wasn't quite working for Rich Levi and maybe it wasn't quite working for David down the order so I was pleased both

of those two contributed," Ripley said.

"Ideally we want guys being not out at the end and making sure there's no little twists but it was good to have a more commanding batting performance, and David Willey was central to that.

"It was a really top innings, he paced it well, he has immense power but he invested some balls in getting in and when you make a little tweak like that it's nice you have a bit of instant reward."